

Listing of Claims.

1. (Currently amended) ~~An apparatus for~~ A method for detecting identifying and monitoring women at risk of developing OSE-derived carcinomas, which includes the following steps which includes:

Obtaining a pap smear from a female patient;

Exposing a vaginal fornix of the patient;

Employing a device having an introducer needle which is tubular having a connectable open end and a second terminal open end and a diameter to operably co-receive an optic fiber and a tissue removing member therethrough and configured for insertion into a the female patient such that said terminal end of said needle is positioned adjacent an ovary of the female patient; a microendoscope having a housing having an open surface end sealably connected to said connectable end, an optic fiber operably extending through said open surface end and which is operably inserted into said needle in a manner to enable an image of the ovary to be obtained therethrough, said housing having a first channel defined therein to receive said optic fiber, a second channel configured to receive an optic light source for illumination of said optic fiber and a third channel, each said channel defines a separate, continuous and unobstructed path to said open surface end, ; and a tissue removing member insertable through said third channel in a manner to be operably co-insertable into said needle with said optic fiber therein to enable removal of ovarian tissue cells with minimal deleterious effect to the ovary;

Inserting said introducer needle into the fornix to advance said microendoscope to enable visualization of the ovary;

Advancing said tissue removing member through said third channel to contact the ovary

in a manner to enable OSE tissue cells to be obtained therewith; and

Removing the tissue removing member and OSE tissue cells from said device for  
analysis.

2. (currently amended) The method apparatus of claim 1, wherein said needle is equipped with a stylet which extends through said needle to block unwanted material from entering said needle and includes an end which seats against a neck of said needle and which can be gripped to permit removal of said stylet.

3. (currently amended) The method apparatus of claim 2, whereupon removal of said stylet, said optic fiber is further characterized to extend out of an open connector surface of a housing of said microendoscope, wherein said open connector surface is sealably connectable to said neck of said needle with said optic fiber extending into said needle.

4. (currently amended) The method apparatus of claim 1, wherein said housing said optic fiber operably extending therefrom substantially a length equal to said needle such that when operably inserted therein ends of said needle and optic fiber are generally co-terminus.

5. (currently amended) The method apparatus of claim 4, wherein said microendoscope includes a fiber optic light source operably connected to said second channel of said housing such that said optic fiber is illuminated and a camera operably connected to said first channel for viewing the image seen through said optic fiber.

6. (currently amended) The method apparatus of claim 5, wherein said camera is connected to a monitor operably connected to a computer having software to enable viewing of said image and recordation of physician notes into a data file associated with said viewed image.

7. (currently amended) The method apparatus of claim 6, wherein said computer includes

a microphone operably connected thereto and said software includes voice recognition and is operably associated with said microphone to permit said notes to be recorded via said voice recognition software.

8. (currently amended) The method apparatus of claim 6, wherein said monitor and said computer are integrally formed in a touch screen monitor computer.

9. (currently amended) The method apparatus of claim 3, wherein said housing further includes a port communicating with said third channel through which said tissue removing member can be inserted, said port communicating with said open connector surface.

10. (currently amended) The method apparatus of claim 1, wherein said tissue removing member is ~~can be~~ an ovarian cytology brush.

11. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the step of inserting the needle is characterized as inserting the needle into the fornix between about 1 to 2 centimeters The apparatus of claim 9, wherein said housing is generally v-shaped having partitions therein which define said channels.

12. (cancelled) ~~The apparatus of claim 1, which further includes a flexible protective tubing covering said optic fiber.~~